

134 E. Hill Street
Long Beach, California 90806

March 8, 2004

Redevelopment Agency Board Members
Long Beach Redevelopment Agency
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Independent Study of Redevelopment – Citywide?

Dear Board Members:

Citizens Against Redevelopment Merger and Expansion ("CARME") maintains its opposition to the Redevelopment Agency Board conducting a so-called "independent study" as described to date. We believe that the oversight and management of an independent study and/or an independent audit should be the responsibility of the elected City Auditor.

We have asked that the City Council, City Manager and his members of his senior staff not be allowed to manipulate the RFP development process from behind the scenes. In spite of our pleas, you have repeatedly delegated the early stages of the independent study process to RDA staff and other individuals who should not have an undefined influence in your work.

CASE IN POINT: *On page two of a memorandum to the Board, dated March 8, 2004 from Melanie Fallon, you will notice the signature line where the Long Beach City Manager needs to provide final approval. Why is that?*

Although the Agency Board is already off to a poor start, you have an opportunity to make some important course corrections today, possibly avoiding the incredible embarrassment that the folks involved in the unfolding Queen Mary scandal are sure to suffer.

These are our latest requests and suggestions:

RE: TRANSMITTAL LETTER

CARME believes the public would appreciate and should have an opportunity to review the transmittal letter, as well as any redevelopment-specific information and background material on the Agency, and the City, that will be prepared and included in the "RFP package" distributed to prospective bidders/contractors, prior to its release.

RE: SELECTION CRITERIA

CARME believes that the information you will request in the RFP should directly correspond to what will be of importance as the Board evaluates each proposal. CARME also believes the selection criteria should have driven the writing of the RFP, not vice versa. However, since that is not the case, we encourage the Board to make clear your willingness to evaluate each proposal for demonstrated

competence, knowledge and qualifications, and the reasonableness of the proposed fee for services.

RE: DECISION PROCESS

In the RFP, the Agency should provide a summary of the decision process; including the "ground rules" the Agency will observe and will expect Respondents to observe. The RFP should also let respondents know the likely timetable for the decision.

RE: INDEPENDENCE

Respondents should be required to describe their internal practices to ensure compliance with independence requirements and freedom from conflicts of interests.

RE: CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

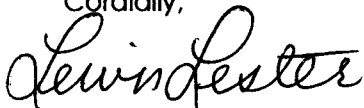
CARME supports disclosure of information related to potential conflicts of interests and former employees of the Agency or the City of Long Beach, and believes it would be inappropriate for the Redevelopment Agency Board to award the Independent Study contract to a respondent who has been retained or employed by the City of Long Beach or the Redevelopment Agency within the past (5) years.

We request language similar to that provided below, be included in the RFP:

- **Conflicts of Interest**
Respondents may not have any personal or business interests that would present an actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest with performance of this contract, and the contractor will not reasonably create an appearance of impropriety.
- **Restrictions on Contractors and Former Employees of the Agency and the City of Long Beach**
Any Respondent who has been employed or retained by the Redevelopment Agency or the City of Long Beach during the five years preceding its proposal must disclose in the proposal:
 - *The nature of previous contract(s) or employment with the RDA, the City, or another city agency;*
 - *The date the contract(s) or employment terminated; and*
 - *The annual rate of compensation for the contract(s) or employment at the time of termination*

Citizens Against Redevelopment Merger and Expansion would appreciate a thorough public discussion of each of our requests and suggestions, separately. Thank you.

Cordially,



Lewis Lester,
Chair
Citizens Against Redevelopment Merger and Expansion